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Committee for Programme and Coordination
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Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-eighth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011
(Item 3 (b))

Programme 14
Economic and social development in Africa

1. At its 15th meeting, on 20 June 2008, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog. 14)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the overall orientation of the programme. It was noted with interest that the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) was taking advantage of lessons learned from implementation of the programme of work in prior bienniums, although the programme as narrated appeared ambitious, and therefore there was a need to concentrate on the activities that were attainable in the biennium 2010-2011. Clarification was sought as to how the challenges that were not overcome were taken into account in formulating the programme.

4. Support was also expressed for the priority given by ECA to support its subregional offices with a view to delivering and operating as subregional nodes for knowledge management and networking as well as meeting the specific development needs of each region. The view was expressed that, in view of the

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information provided in part one: plan outline of the proposed strategic framework that Africa was the only region currently at risk of not achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, programme 14, was necessary to assist African countries in formulating and implementing policies and programmes that would lead to sustainable economic growth and social development. The view was also expressed that Africa needed the international community to meet the challenges it faced. The view was further expressed regarding the need to intensify efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals within a reasonable period of time and the United Nations was called upon to cooperate with other organizations, in particular the African Union, so that results achieved would be greater than expected. Moreover, the view was expressed that results achieved would be much better if there was stronger cooperation, in particular through training seminars and vocational preparation.

5. The progress made by ECA to focus efforts on achieving coherence between global and regional priorities was critical for avoiding duplication and would be beneficial for Member States in the region. A query was raised as to how ECA was assisting regional organizations to harmonize their work programmes. A query was also raised as to whether there were complementarities and cooperation with other regional organizations. Queries were also raised about the measures being taken by ECA in assisting Member States to strengthen their capacity, in particular in remedying or improving their energy needs. The view was expressed that agriculture was one of the critical areas in which ECA needed to strengthen its efforts.

6. The experience of ECA partnership with the African Union through strengthened collaboration and the joint United Nations-African Union Declaration, which provided the framework for the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union and had enhanced the focus on promoting regional integration, was commended. The focus by ECA on meeting the special needs of Africa and emerging global challenges was welcomed, and ECA was urged to include the current food crisis in its priorities since all indications showed that the current crisis would not be temporary and that Africa would be most affected by the challenge.

7. A query was raised about the impact of security concerns on subprogramme 2 and the possibility of including that area of focus in the subprogramme.

8. Support was expressed for the focus of subprogramme 3 on the improvement of good governance practices to ensure participation in the development and governance processes and consolidate the foundations of sustainable development. The view was expressed that great importance was attached to the instruments that supported Member States in monitoring and assessing progress towards good governance, such as the *African Governance Report* referred to under subprogramme 3. The view was also expressed that a report on training in the area of good governance should be included as an indicator of achievement under subprogramme 3.

9. The continuous mainstreaming of gender concerns in subprogramme 6 and across the other subprogrammes of the programme was welcomed. Support was expressed for the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in national development policies and programmes. The view was expressed that the empowerment of women and the improvement of their living conditions were critical for Africa's success, which principles had also been enshrined by the African Union. Moreover, the

promotion of the role of women in all activities was one of the long-term objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

10. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of ECA to adjust subprogramme 7 to increase effectiveness and efficiency in meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

11. The strengthening of the statistical capacity of Member States, as envisaged in subprogramme 9, was also welcomed. Support was expressed for the strategy of subprogramme 9 regarding the provision of support to the working groups on the statistical harmonization of the Millennium Development Goals indicators, the convening of workshops and the provision of technical assistance.

12. Note was taken of the revision to subprogramme 10 and the effort to strengthen capacity to achieve poverty reduction in line with internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, through a focus on social development was welcomed. The view was expressed that the objective of subprogramme 10 to strengthen national and regional capacity in meeting the Millennium Development Goals had been threatened by the recent challenges arising from the global food crisis and climate changes. The view was also expressed that although the strategy of the subprogramme would focus on the attainment of key human and social development priorities, such as HIV/AIDS, the issue of malaria should be included as well.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. **The Committee recognized the important role that ECA was playing in the implementation of NEPAD and welcomed the alignment of the Commission's overall objectives with the goals and priorities of the Partnership and its focus on the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and international agreements.**

14. **The Committee urged ECA to add the current food price crisis to its priorities and devise strategies, in coordination with all role players, that would have a definite impact on food security for the poor and vulnerable population in Africa in order to avert a catastrophe and further setbacks in the achievement of the relevant Millennium Development Goals.**

15. **The Committee stressed the need for a more accurate and results-oriented formulation of expected accomplishments as well as quantifiable indicators of achievement in the future strategic framework of the programme.**

16. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modification:**

Subprogramme 4
Information and science technology for development

Objective of the Organization

After the word "evaluation", add ", including at the regional level,".